

What is claimed is:

1. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length targeted
5 to a nucleic acid molecule encoding MHC class II
transactivator, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes
with said nucleic acid molecule encoding MHC class II
transactivator and inhibits the expression of MHC class II
transactivator.

10 2. The compound of claim 1 which is an antisense
oligonucleotide.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense
oligonucleotide has a sequence comprising SEQ ID NO: 26, 27,
29, 30, 31, 32, 36, 37, 38, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 48, 59, 61,
15 62, 73 or 96.

4. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense
oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified
internucleoside linkage.

5. The compound of claim 4 wherein the modified
20 internucleoside linkage is a phosphorothioate linkage.

6. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense
oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety.

7. The compound of claim 6 wherein the modified sugar
moiety is a 2'-O-methoxyethyl sugar moiety.

25 8. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense
oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified nucleobase.

9. The compound of claim 8 wherein the modified
nucleobase is a 5-methylcytosine.

10. The compound of claim 2 wherein the antisense
30 oligonucleotide is a chimeric oligonucleotide.

11. A compound 8 to 50 nucleobases in length which
specifically hybridizes with at least an 8-nucleobase portion
of an active site on a nucleic acid molecule encoding MHC
class II transactivator.

35 12. A composition comprising the compound of claim 1
and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

13. The composition of claim 12 further comprising a colloidal dispersion system.

14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the compound is an antisense oligonucleotide.

5 15. A method of inhibiting the expression of MHC class II transactivator in cells or tissues comprising contacting said cells or tissues with the compound of claim 1 so that expression of MHC class II transactivator is inhibited.

10 16. A method of treating an animal having a disease or condition associated with MHC class II transactivator comprising administering to said animal a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of the compound of claim 1 so that expression of MHC class II transactivator is inhibited.

15 17. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is an autoimmune disorder.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the disease or condition is an infection.

20 19. The compound of claim 1 targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding MHC class II transactivator, wherein said compound specifically hybridizes with and differentially inhibits the expression of one of the variants of MHC class II transactivator relative to the remaining variants of MHC class II transactivator.

25 20. The compound of claim 19 targeted to a nucleic acid molecule encoding MHC class II transactivator, wherein said compound hybridizes with and specifically inhibits the expression of a variant of MHC class II transactivator, wherein said variant is selected from the group consisting of MHC2TA, MHC2TA-II, MHC2TA-III, MHC2TA-IV, MHC2TA-V, MHC2TA-VI.

PATENT SPECIMEN